

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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R 131202Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3210

DEPT OF DEFENSE WASHDC

INFO NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE WASHDC

UNCLAS BANGKOK 7748

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, TH

SUBJ: VISIT OF STUDENTS AND FACULTY OF NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE

1. THIRTY STUDENTS, SEVEN FACULTY, AND FIVE ADMINISTRATIVE TRIP-SUPPORT PERSONNEL FROM THE U.S. NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE (NWC) VISITED THAILAND 26 APR TO 1 MAY 74. THE SENIOR OFFICER OF THE GROUP OF 14 USG CIVILIAN PERSONNEL AND 28 U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL WAS MAJOR GENERAL RICHARD M. LEE, USA, DEPUTY COMMANDANT OF THE NWC. THE GROUP ARRIVED BY COMMERCIAL AIR TRANSPORTATION FROM SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA, LATE ON FRIDAY NIGHT (APR 26) AND THEY WERE MET AND BRIEFLY HOSTED IN THE DON MUANG AIRPORT VIP LOUNGE BY THE SUPERINTENDANT OF THE ROYAL THAI NATIONAL DEVENCE COLLEGE (NDC), LT GENERAL CHAVENG YOUNGCHAROEN, AND MEMBERS OF THE NDC STAFF.

2. THE NWC GROUP HAD SATURDAY AND MOST OF SUNDAY FOR REST, RELAXATION, TOURING, SHOPPING AND SIGHTSEEING. SUNDAY EVENING, APRIL 28, AMBASSADOR KINTNER HOSTED A RECEPTION AT HIS RESIDENCE DURING WHICH HE SPOKE TO THE GROUP, ENTERTAINED QUESTIONS CONCERNING HIS REMARKS, AND ADDITIONALLY PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE NWC STUDENTS AND FACULTY TO MEET IN SMALL INFORMAL GROUP DISCUSSIONS WITH THE COUNSELORS OF THE EMBASSY AND WITH OTHER SENIOR REPRESENTATIVES OF EACH SECTION OF THE MISSION. IN HIS REMARKS, AMBASSADOR PROVIDED AN HISTORICAL AND CURRENT OVERVIEW OF U.S. RELATIONS WITH THE RTG; DISCUSSED CURRENT

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DIPLOMATIC, POLITICAL, SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ISSUES;

AND DESCRIBED THE EFFORTS WHICH THE MISSION HAS MADE TO SUPPORT THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROVISIONAL RTG AND CONCURRENTLY TO PROTECT USG OBJECTIVES AND INTERESTS IN THE AREA.

3. ON 29 APRIL AND 30 APRIL OPPORTUNITIES HAD BEEN ARRANGED FOR THE NWC GROUP TO MEET WITH THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA), CHARUNPHAN ARANGKUN NA AYUTTAYA; THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE, AIR CHIEF MARSHAL THAWI CHULASAP; THE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNIST SUPPRESSION OPERATIONS COMMAND (CSOC), LT GEN SAIYUD KERDPHON; COMUSMACTHAI, MG THOMAS W. MELLEN USA; THE COMMANDER JCRC, BG JOSEPH R. ULATOSKI, USA; AND THE COMMANDER USSAG, GENERAL T.F. O'KEEFE, USAF. ADDITIONALLY, THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE RTNDC HOSTED A VISIT TO THE NDC, TOURS TO THE GRAND PALACE AND THE WAT OF THE EMERALD BUDDHA, AND A DINNER ABOARD A LARGE RIVER BOAT WHICH CRUISED FOUR HOURS DOWN THE CHAO PHYA RIVER. THE GROUP DEPARTED ON 1 MAY 74 BY MILITARY AIR TRANSPORTATION TO KUALA LUMPUR AND SINGAPORE.

4. DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION, EDWARD MASTERS, AN ALUMNUS OF THE NWC CLASS OF 1964, ACCOMPANIED THE GROUP IN THE CALL ON THE FOREIGN MINISTER. THE MEETING TOOK PLACE IN A LARGE, RICHLY FURNISHED CONFERENCE ROOM AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY; INCLUDED REFRESHMENTS; AND LASTED ABOUT ONE HOUR. THE MINISTER READ AN OPENING STATEMENT WHICH DESCRIBED AT SOME LENGTH THAILAND'S FOREIGN POLICY AS A POLICY WHICH DESIRED FRIENDSHIP WITH ALL ANTIIONS WHICH SINCERELY WISHED TO ACHIEVE AND MAINTAIN FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THAILAND.

5. THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE RECEIVED THE NWC GROUP IN A RECEPTION ROOM AT THE MINISTRY AND IMMEDIATELY LAUNCHED INTO A QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION WITHOUT THE FORMALITY OF AN OPENING STATEMENT. THE LINE OF QUESTIONING WAS NOT RESTRICTED AND THE ANSWERS WERE FRANK, STRAIGHT FORWARD, AND RESPONSIVE TO AN INTEREST IN THE ROLE OF THE MILITARY FORECES IN THE POST-OCTOBER 14TH EFFORTS TO FROM A CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT IN THAILAND. AIR CHIEF MARSHALL THAWI ADDITIONALLY ADDRESSED A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS WHICH PERTAINED TO THE CONTINUING VALIDITY OF THE U.S. MILITARY COMMITMENT TO THAILAND INVIEW OF THE CHANGED SITUATION IN SEA AND THE USA SINCE THE COMMITMENTS WERE ORIGINALLY MADE. THE POOR ACOUSTICS OF THE RECEPTION ROOM AND THE NOISE OF ESSENTIAL AIR CONDITIONING

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EQUIPMENT MADE HEARING DIFFICULT; THEREFORE THE MINISTER INVITED THE ENTIRE GROUP TO GATHER CLOSE AROUND HIM IN A VERY INFORMAL GIVE-AND-TAKE IN WHICH HE VIGOROUSLY SHOOK HANDS, SWAPPED "SEA STORIES", ANSWERED ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS, AND OBVIOUSLY VERY MUCH ENJOYED THE COMMANDARIE OF THE OCCASION

6. LT GEN SAIYUD OPENED THE COMMUNIST SUPPRESSION OPERATIONS COMMAND (CSOC) BRIEFING FOR THE NWC WITH A STATEMENT THAT HE

WAS GRATIFIED TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT THE PROBLEMS OF INSURGENCY IN THAILAND AND THE PROGRAMS FOR COMBATING THAT INSURGENCY TO SUCH A SENIOR GROUP OF U.S. PERSONNEL WHO WERE DESTINED FOR FUTURE ASSIGNMENTS OF VERY RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP WITH THE USG. HE FURTHER REMARKED THAT HE HAD APPRECIATED USG ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE IN THE PAST AND GREATLY WELCOMED WHATEVER ASSISTANCE MIGHT BE MADE AVAILABLE IN THE FUTURE. THE CSOC BRIEFING CONSISTED OF A WELL ORGANIZED, DETAILED, AND EASILY UNDERSTOOD PRESENTATION IN ENGLISH WHICH DISCUSSED THE NATURE OF THE INSURGENCY THREAT, THE ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONS OF THE RTG'S EFFORT TO COMBAT THE INSURGENCY, THE CSOC OPERATIONAL CONCEPTS, AND AN ANALYSIS OF THE CURRENT SITUATIONS.

7. THE COMMANDERS OF USSAG, USMACTHAI, AND THE JCRC BRIEFED ON THEIR AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY; THE IMPACT OF THE CURRENT SITUATIONS IN THAILAND, LAOS, AND CAMBODIA ON RELATED U.S. MILITARY INTERESTS, OBJECTIVES, AND CAPABILITIES, AND ENTERTAINED THIRTY MINUTES OF UNRESTRICTED QUESTIONS. THIS MEETING LASTED FOR A TOTAL 90 MINUTES AND WAS HELD IN THE XZTHAI BRIEFING ROOM, BANGKOK.

8. LT GEN CHAVENG YOUNGCHAROEN HOSTED VISIT TO THE NATIONAL DEFENSE COLLEGE (NDC), THE WAT OF THE EMERALD BUDDHA, THE GRAND PALACE, AND A TOUR HOUR CRUISE DOWN THE CHAO PHYA RIVER FROM BANGKOK TO SAMUT PRAKAN, AT THE NATIONAL DEFENCE COLLEGE THE GROUP WAS SHOWN THE NDC FACILITIES AND BRIEFED ON THE CONCEPT, ORGANIZATION, AND METHODOLOGY OF MOD POST-GRADUATE EDUCATION IN THAILAND. THE VISITS TO THE GRAND PALACE AND THE WAT OF THE EMERALD BUDDHA PROVIDED HIGH INTEREST INSIGHTS INTO THAI CULTURE AND TRADITIONS AND PROVIDED INCOMPARABLE SUBJECT MATTER FOR MEMORABLE PHOTOGRAPHS. THE CRUISE DOWN THE CHAO PHYA RIVER INCLUDED A COCKTAIL PARTY AND DINNER OF TYPICAL THAI FOOD SUPPLEMENTED BY GREAT QUANTITIES OF FRUIT, NATIVE LIQUID UNCLASSIFIED

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REFRESHMENTS, AND THAI CANDIES, THESE SUPPLEMENTAL "GOODIES" WERE BROUGHT ABOARD THE LARGE RIVER BOAT BY THE GOVERNOR AND OTHER DISTRICT OFFICIALS FROM THE PROVINCES THROUGH WHICH THE CRUISE TRANSITED. THE CRUISE PROVIDED AN UNUSUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR THE NWC PERSONNEL TO SOCIALIZE AT CONSIDERABLE LENGTH WITH A WIDE CROSS SECTION OF SENIOR THAI MILITARY AND CIVILIAN OFFICIALS IN AN EXTREMELY HOSPITABLE AND ENJOYABLE ENVIRONMENT.

9. DURING THE VISIT, OPPORTUNITIES WERE ARRANGED FOR INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE GROUP TO ADDITIONALLY VISIT CHIANG MAI, ANCIENT CITY, THE FLOATING MARKET, THE WEEKEND MARKET AT THE PRAMANE GROUNDS AND OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST.

10. GENERAL LEE WAS AN IMPRESSIVE PARTICIPATING LEADER OF A

DISTINGUISHED GROUP OF YOUNG OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
USG. THEIR INFORMED BACKGROUND, HIGH INTEREST, AND CONTAGIOUS  
SINCERITY PROJECTED A HIGHLY FAVORABLE IMAGE WHICH WILL BE  
MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO OUR OBJECTIVES IN THAILAND.  
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